

## LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE. { CONTINUED ON PAGES 6, 11.

### THE ADVANCE ON PRETORIA

Lord Roberts Rapidly Getting Into Position to Begin it.

#### ONLY POINT FOR ANXIETY

The Situation of Mafeking May be Relieved in a Few Days—The Attitude of the Powers is Satisfactory to Great Britain—The Boers Succeed in Getting Wagons and Military Stores Out of Bloemfontein Before its Fall—England Pins its Faith to Roberts.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

London, March 17.—4:20 a. m.—With the railway communication to the Cape intact, Lord Roberts will in a very few days be in a position to begin the advance on Pretoria. His deep political intuition, combined with his bold strategy, is having the result desired in the southern sections of the Orange Free State, which are rapidly calming down.

#### ANXIOUS FOR MAFEKING.

Mafeking is now the only point for anxiety and it is known that a force has left Kimberley, its relief may be announced before many days pass. The efficiency of the relieving column is heightened by the fact that it is partly composed of regulars.

In the lobbies of Parliament last evening it was rumored that Lord Roberts is about to issue a proclamation announcing that the former system of government in the Orange Free State is abolished and promising Free States who immediately surrender due consideration.

#### ATTITUDE OF THE POWERS.

It is understood that all the Continental powers, with one exception, unreservedly refused to intervene. The exception is Russia, whose reply was couched in less firm language, although, like the others, she declined to interfere. It is said that the Pope was also appealed to, but that he declined to do anything beyond writing a letter to the Queen, appealing to her to stop the further effusion of blood. Dr. Leyds' efforts with King Leopold were quite futile.

The possibility of the destruction of Johannesburg is still discussed here, but it is believed that the French and German shareholders would offer a strong protest.

#### SURRENDER OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

The last advices respecting the surrender of Bloemfontein show that the approach of the British caused a stampede. Thirteen trains, each composed of forty cars, and all crammed with Boers, hurried northward just before the line was cut. Mr. Steyn would have been compelled to surrender; but he pretended that he was going to visit one of the outposts, and at midnight took a carriage, which was waiting for him outside the town, and thus escaped. The Boers got the bulk of their wagons and military stores away.

London, March 16.—Lord Roberts has sent the following dispatch to the War Office:

Bloemfontein, Friday, March 16.—General Clements crossed the Orange river yesterday. Repairs to the railway bridge at Norval's Pont have commenced, and it will shortly be ready for traffic. General Pole-Carew telegraphs his arrival at Springfontein, so that Bloemfontein is now in practically full communication with Cape Town. My proclamation is already having an excellent effect. Several hundred Burgers have expressed their intention to surrender their arms and return to their occupations.

The resident Commissioner of Basutoland reports that 800 Boers lately arrived from Bloemfontein, and that a further contingent from Alwal North was only waiting to know the terms of my proclamation to surrender. They had refused to attend a council at

Kroonstadt, to which President Steyn had summoned them.

#### ATTITUDE OF GERMANY.

Pretoria, March 14, via Lourenço Marques, Thursday, March 15.—The German Consul has handed the following dispatch to President Kruger:

"The Government of Germany and the Emperor will be glad and ready to assist in friendly mediations as soon as the fundamental conditions to which are apparent, as soon as it is demonstrated that both opponents desire mediation. Whether the desire already exists on the British side can be found by the Republics on direct inquiry at London, or through the good offices of a third government, which has no important interests of its own to consider in South Africa. The latter assumption is qualified by the number of nations in and outside Europe, but not with Germany. Any such step on the part of the German Government would awake suspicions and have other than a humanitarian view. The increased mistrust thereby engendered would not promote a peaceable settlement. The request of the Republics to transmit their appeal for mediation to the Austro-Hungarian and Swiss Governments, whose interests are watched by the German Consulate, has been immediately fulfilled."

#### REJOICING IN CAPE COLONY.

Cape Town, March 16.—There was great rejoicing throughout the colony upon the receipt of the news that Bloemfontein had been occupied by the British. The first intimation of the fact at Port Elizabeth was the firing of twenty-one guns at 11 o'clock in the evening. The inhabitants hastened to the streets, and the Mayor was carried on men's shoulders to the Town Hall, where a demonstration was made. To-day will be observed as a general holiday.

There is great rejoicing at Bloemfontein, where the women and children have been shut off for months. At Jamestown great complaint is made of the harsh treatment of the Boers during the occupation. Rebels are coming in daily with their arms from the south. A number of other rebel leaders have been arrested.

When the British forced the passage of the Orange river this morning they surprised the Boers.

The British troops occupied a position on the north side of the river, with little opposition, and are now building a pontoon.

#### ARRIVED AT PRETORIA.

Naples, March 16.—Webster Davis, United States Assistant Secretary of the Interior, has arrived here from Pretoria on his way to America.

#### MILITARY SITUATION ECLIPSED.

London, March 16.—Lord Roberts' success in handling the civil problems at Bloemfontein, and the manifest equanimity with which the residents of the capital of the Orange Free State accept the British occupation momentarily eclipse in interest the military situation. It is believed here that the commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa will soon push on to Pretoria, but Great Britain is quite content to listen for a few days to the acclamations of the people of Bloemfontein and permit the troops to enjoy a few days' rest before expecting further success. Lord Roberts made a quaint speech to the guards at Bloemfontein to-day, when, in his first congratulatory words, he expressed pride in their splendid march of thirty-eight miles in twenty-eight hours, and gave ample assurance of his ultimate design. "Through a small mistake," said Lord Roberts, "I have not been able to march into Bloemfontein at the head of the brigade, as I intended. I promise you, however, that I will lead you into Pretoria."

#### GEN. GATACRE'S OPERATIONS.

General Gatacre is holding Bethulle and the whole line of the railroad south of Bloemfontein is now in the hands of the British, and General Gatacre's column having crossed the Orange river after a forced march, at Alwal North, on Sunday, and General Clements' column being across at Van Zyl, the three columns will form an army of twelve to fifteen thousand men, which is expected to replace the forces of Lord Roberts at Bloemfontein as he pushes northward. Just where the Boers will attempt to oppose that march is an important question, but it cannot be easily answered until General Gatacre is more definitely located. Further news has reached the outside world from Mafeking, dated Friday, March 9th, showing that though the garrison was in hard straits, they were buoyed up by the knowledge that their

Continued on Page 6.

### A DAY WITH THE HOUSE

A Bill Establishing Civil Government in Porto Rico.

#### SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS

The Organization of Banks of Issue and Agricultural Organizations Prohibited—Tributes to the Memory of the Late Representative Sydney P. Epes, of Virginia—A Bill for the Benefit of Representative Swanson Offered.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, March 16.—The bill establishing a civil government in Porto Rico has been practically completed by the sub-committee of the House Committee on Insular Affairs. In addition to the features already published, the committee has incorporated provisions relating to corporations. The bill prohibits the issue of stock or bonds except for cash, or the issue of stock or bond divisions. It prohibits the granting of public franchises by private bills, but provides for a general franchise law reserving to the Legislature the power to amend, alter or repeal franchises at will, and also the right to purchase such franchises. It prohibits the organization of banks of issue and the organization of agricultural corpora-

### PORTO RICAN RELIEF BILL

Passed by the Senate After a Protracted Discussion.

#### MANY AMENDMENTS OFFERED

The Quay Case to be Taken Up Two Weeks From Next Tuesday—Messrs. Jones, of Arkansas, and Tillman, of South Carolina, Make Home Thrusts at Their Republican Colleagues—The Latter Disparagingly Had and Wicked Partners of the President.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, D. C., March 16.—The Porto Rican appropriation bill was passed by the Senate to-day. Its text follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the sum of \$2,095,455, being the amount of customs revenue received on importations by the United States from Porto Rico since the evacuation of Porto Rico by the Spanish forces on the 18th of October, 1898, to the 1st of January, 1900, shall be placed at the disposal of the President, to be used for the government now existing and which may hereafter be established in Porto Rico, and for the public education, public works and other governmental and public purposes therein; and the said sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated for

nounced he would vote against him without any preliminary objection.

#### PORTO RICAN BILL.

Consideration of the Porto Rican appropriation bill was then resumed. The Chair having ruled that the committee's amendments to the bill had been adopted, other amendments offered were in order. The committee amendments provided that the money appropriated should be that collected up to January 1, 1900, the appropriation to be used for "public education, public works and other governmental and public purposes."

The first amendment was that of Mr. Allen, of Nebraska. It provided "that the constitution was, by force of the treaty concluded between the United States and the Kingdom of Spain at the city of Paris, France, April 11, 1898, extended over the island of Porto Rico and its inhabitants."

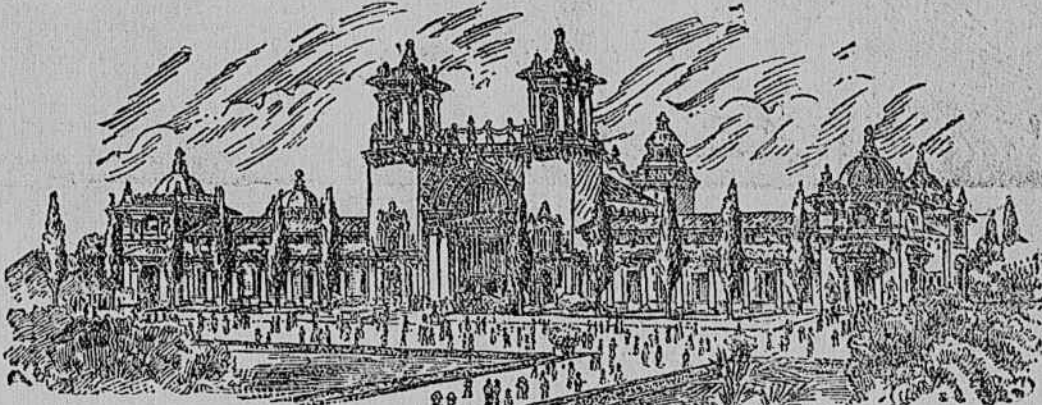
Mr. Allison entered a motion to lay the amendment on the table, but withdrew it while Mr. Chilton, of Texas, addressed the Senate on the general proposition of the amendment and the Porto Rican question. He said the bill is as wrong and dangerous in principle as the tax on tea which fired our forefathers. The Constitution, he urged, goes wherever the flag flies. Mr. Allison's motion to table Mr. Allen's amendment prevailed—36 to 17—as follows:

Yeas—Allison, Baker, Bard, Beveridge, Carter, Davis, Deboe, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster, Fry, Gallinger, Gear, Hale, Hanna, Hawley, Keam, Lindsay, Lodge, McBride, McComas, McCumber, McMillan, Penrose, Perkins, Pritchard, Quarles, Ross, Sewell, Shoup, Simon, Spooner, Thurston, Warren, Wellington, Wetmore—36. Nays—Allen, Bacon, Bate, Berry, Butler, Chilton, Clark (Montana), Clay, Cockrell, Culberson, Harris, Kenney, McLaurin, Morgan, Rawlins, Tillman and Turley—17.

#### MR. JONES' HOME THRUSTS.

The amendment offered yesterday by Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, was then laid before the Senate. Mr. Jones said he had decided to withdraw the amendment. In a discussion of his position,

## ELECTRICITY BUILDING, PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION



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Elaborate designs have recently been completed for the Electricity Building for the Pan-American Exposition, to be held at Buffalo, N. Y., May 1st to October 31st, 1901. Displays of all kinds in the practical and artistic uses of electricity, together with complete exhibits of electrical machinery and appliances are to be conspicuous features of the great Exposition.

The designs contemplate a very handsome and commodious building. The structure is to be 500 feet from east to west and 150 feet wide, giving an ex-hibition space of 75,000 square feet. The south facade fronts the Mall and the north fronts the Midway. The east end is toward the massive Electric Tower, while the west end faces the Grand Canal. The building is long, low and inviting. The design of the facades shows artistic grouping. The openings of the pergola-like loggias, placed at frequent intervals, present a delightful effect, showing more and more of the reveals of the pilasters and openings as the eye travels to the end of the building farthest away from the observer.

There is a pleasing ending at each corner of the building, with a low-domed pavilion tower, and the building is interrupted at the center by the double-towered entrance. This entrance, wide and high, is spanned by an ornamental arch and supported each side by columns. The towers also have minor entrances through them. The connecting work between the towers, the towers themselves, the pavilions at the corners of the buildings, and similar places, are to be brilliantly illuminated and made gay with banners and flags.

The modeled relief work of the building is of choicest design. The general ornamentation of the building is to be frescoes in an interesting mixture of reds, greens and yellows. The general color-scheme follows that of the Machinery and Transportation Building and other groups of buildings of the Exposition. The building was designed by Green & Wicks, of Buffalo.

ations. The latter provision is to prevent the agricultural lands of the island falling into the hands of a big corporation. Following the law in this country it also provides that banks procuring title to lands in payment of debts must dispose of such land within five years.

#### THE LATE MR. EPES.

In the House to-day Saturday, March 24, was set aside for paying tribute to the memory of the late Representative Sidney P. Epes, of Virginia.

This was the first private bill day in the House under the new rule, and after some minor business the House went into committee of the whole to consider private claim bills.

#### MR. SWANSON'S CLAIM.

The first called up was a bill to pay Representative Claude A. Swanson, of Virginia, \$1,750, the amount of expenses incurred by him in connection with his contest in excess of the \$2,000 allowed by law.

Mr. Swanson's seat was contested in the last Congress, but the House twice refused to consider the case.

Mr. Otey (Virginia) urged precedents in support of the claim. Mr. Crumpacker (Indiana) opposed the bill, failing to see any reason to make an exception to the policy in such cases. Some of the Democrats, he said, had favored the abolition of any allowance on the ground that the allowance to contestants fostered contests, but he thought the law should stand until there were fair elections in the South. But a bad precedent should not be made by paying this claim in excess of \$2,000.

Mr. Burke (Texas) supported the claim. He thought in all justice the expense to which Mr. Swanson had been put should be refunded to him. He denounced the law which gave contestants \$2,000 whether they were seated or not. It placed a premium upon wild-cat contests. Since the law had been passed 167 contests had been filed in the House.

After some further debate the advocates of the bill agreed to its withdrawal. Six bills of minor importance were then passed, and at 4:40 p. m. the House adjourned.

the purposes herein specified, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

#### OPPOSITION TO BILL.

This relief appropriation bill, recommended in a special message by President McKinley, followed a debate, at times spirited, extending over parts of two days. Before its passage Mr. Allen, of Nebraska, offered an amendment to the bill declaring that the constitution extends over Porto Rico by its own force, but it was lost by the decisive vote of 36 to 17.

Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, withdrew a free trade amendment offered by him, and that proposition, therefore, did not reach a vote. Other efforts to amend the bill were fruitless.

#### THE QUAY CASE AGAIN.

The Senate unanimously agreed to take up the Quay case two weeks from next Tuesday and discuss it until disposed of, the discussion not to interfere with the unfinished business—the Spooner bill authorizing the President to govern the Philippines—until otherwise directed, the appropriation bills or conference reports.

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

That the Secretary of War be directed to communicate to the Senate a letter of Emilio Aguinaldo, dated at Baccor, July 15, 1898, addressed to the American commander and forwarded to General Merritt July 27, 1898.

Mr. Gallinger, of New Hampshire, offered a resolution, which was agreed to, that the members of the Cabinet be directed to communicate to the Senate the number of clerks in their departments, giving the number between specified ages, and also those who, in whole or in part, are permanently incapacitated.

#### GALLINGER AND QUAY.

Mr. Hoar then renewed his request to fix a date for taking up the Quay case, resulting as already stated. Meantime, Mr. Gallinger, of New Hampshire, who had yesterday some hot words with Mr. Penrose, of Pennsylvania, denied that any Senator opposed to the seating of Mr. Quay was employing parliamentary tactics to obstruct a vote on the case and an-

he declared that a great storm had raged in Porto Rico, and likewise a great storm was raging in this country, the cause of the latter being the action of the House on the Porto Rican question. He said there was now a strenuous effort on the part of the Republicans to get out of this storm, and the bill now proposed was the means they were employing to land safely.

He declared that the course of the Government toward the people of the island, and not the hurricane, had paralyzed the industries of Porto Rico. The remedy was a reversal of the action of the Government and authority for the Porto Ricans to bring their products here free of duty and letting them buy and sell wherever they might please.

"The course we have pursued toward these people," said Mr. Jones, "is wrong and indefensible. What the Porto Ricans want is not charity, but justice. It is perfectly evident that the prostration of affairs on the island is due to the high taxes with which the people there are afflicted."

#### DINGLEY ACT APPLIED.

In answer to a question by Mr. Allen (Nebraska), Mr. Allison replied that, under the military government in Porto Rico, all food products, farm implements, and many other useful and necessary articles, were admitted free of duty. Mr. Allen asked what rates of duty the goods of Porto Rico were now paying in the United States.

"They are paying the rates fixed by the Dingley act," replied Mr. Allison. "The bill we shall pass for Porto Rico will be liberal and just to all."

Mr. Jones inquired where the money came from that was being expended in Porto Rico now, and had been expended heretofore.

Mr. Foraker replied that a large amount had been expended from the war emergency fund, and that some had been expended from customs receipts.

#### AN AMENDMENT.

Remarking that he could not ascertain just what the object of the bill was, Mr. Jones said he would content himself by offering the following amendment:

### RICHMOND NEWS AND GOSSIP

Dr. Temple, of Brunswick, Thought to be Sinking.

#### EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY ASKED

Death of Dr. John F. Jackson—Prominent Officials of Cumberland County Will Ask the Governor to Commute Death Sentence of Reuben Grigg, a Colored Youth—United States Court Asked to Remove a Case From State Court—The Supreme Court.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)

Richmond, Va., March 16.—Dr. William Temple, of Brunswick, who was shot a few days ago by Rev. J. E. R. Riddick, was taken suddenly worse this morning and Dr. Hugh M. Taylor was summoned to attend him. It is not thought that he can long survive his injuries.

#### PROMINENT PHYSICIAN DEAD.

Dr. John F. Jackson, a well-known physician of Richmond, died at 2 o'clock this morning, in the 75th year of his age. Dr. Jackson served through the civil war as a surgeon. He was highly respected in this city.

#### A RESPITE ASKED.

Reuben Grigg, the 16-year-old negro who is to be hanged at Cumberland Courthouse next Friday, may get a respite from Governor Tyler, and his sentence changed to life imprisonment in the State penitentiary.

The crime for which Grigg was sentenced was considered one of the most heinous and brutal committed in the county for many years. He assaulted a little white girl.

The case is now one which has been standing for some little time, owing to the youth of Grigg. He was tried in the County Court and sentenced as above stated.

A petition, asking Governor Tyler to commute Grigg's sentence to life imprisonment, has been signed by Judge Thomas Miller, Commonwealth Attorney Wm. M. Smith, the jury and prominent citizens of Cumberland county.

Mr. William Lancaster and Deputy Sheriff J. E. Phillips, of Cumberland, are in the city for the purpose of presenting the petition to Governor Tyler, but as he will not be back from Radford until to-morrow it is likely that they will leave the petition with Mr. Ben P. Owen, private secretary to the Governor.

#### REMOVAL ASKED.

An application was made this morning in the United States District Court by Messrs. L. T. W. Marjoe and John A. Lamb, attorneys for Beasy Kelly, John J. Lynch and John H. Lyneman and such other stockholders as choose to come in and join them, asking that the receiver appointed for the Commercial Building and Loan Association yesterday by Judge Minor be removed.

The bill alleges that the proper court in which the affairs should be wound up is the United States Bankruptcy Court, and prays that court to take charge and appoint a receiver and proceed to wind up the affairs of the company.

The above petitioners and those who have joined with them since the petition was filed held stock amounting to about \$3,500.

It is feared by those who have money in this concern that they will not receive more than 40 cents on the dollar, if that much.

#### THE SUPREME COURT.

The proceedings in the State Supreme Court to-day were as follows: Scott vs. Moore. Argued by Judge J. H. Ingram for appellant, and Judge Christian and H. W. Anderson for appellee, and continued until Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

The next cases to be called are Nelson vs. Triplett; Payne vs. Zell; and Land vs. Shipps—Nos. 63, 64 and 65.

#### The Georgia Fruit Crop.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Americus, Ga., March 16.—Much apprehension is felt here to-night for the safety of the fruit crop and truck. Orchards are in full bloom and this morning the temperature fell to the freezing point and thin ice formed in exposed localities.

Griffin, Ga., March 16.—Fruitmen here say little damage has been done to Alabama peaches and other hardy varieties, but they seriously fear to-night's weather. The thermometer last night was 39. A temperature of 25 will destroy the peaches.

Macon, Ga., March 16.—A number of fruit men from all parts of the State were in the city to-day attending committee meetings. The consensus of opinion among them is that the weather has not been cold enough to hurt the fruit crop yet.

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#### CLASSIFICATION OF NEWS.

##### BY DEPARTMENTS.

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MARCH 17—ST. PATRICK'S DAY—MARCH 17.

To-day will be observed as St. Patrick's Day wherever a son of Ireland may be found, whether on his native heath, in South Africa fighting the Boers, or on the high seas. The shamrock will be in evidence in every part of the habitable globe.

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